Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATIS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 23

Corn planting at 98 percent complete, nears the record pace of 99 percent which was established in 1988, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Soybean planting progress remains only 1 day behind the record pace established in 1987. Weekend showers helped soil moisture conditions.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Most farmers have finished planting **corn** in the northern and central areas. Planting is far ahead of the 78 percent last year and the 5-year average of 69 percent. By area, corn planting is 99 percent complete in both the northern and central regions of the state and 92 percent complete in the southern districts. Seventy-seven percent of the crop has **emerged** compared with 40 percent a year ago.

Soybean planting made excellent progress last week as acreage planted jumped to 78 percent complete, far ahead of last year's 47 percent and the 5-year average of 42 percent. Soybean planting is 13 days ahead of last year's pace. By area, soybean planting is 83 percent complete in both the northern and central regions of the state and the southern districts had 61 percent of the crop in the ground.

WINTER WHEAT

Seventy-eight percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **headed** compared with 87 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average. The **condition** of the winter wheat was 86 percent good to excellent compared to 82 percent last year.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition was rated 15 percent excellent, 65 percent good, 18 percent fair, and 2 percent poor. Transplanting of tobacco is 22 percent complete, compared with 19 percent last year and 11 percent for the average. First cutting of hay crops continued in southern areas.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.9 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	98	90	78	69
Corn Emerged	77	37	40	NA
Soybeans Planted	78	55	47	42
Soybeans Emerged	44	13	15	NA
Wheat Headed	78	52	87	53

CROP CONDITION

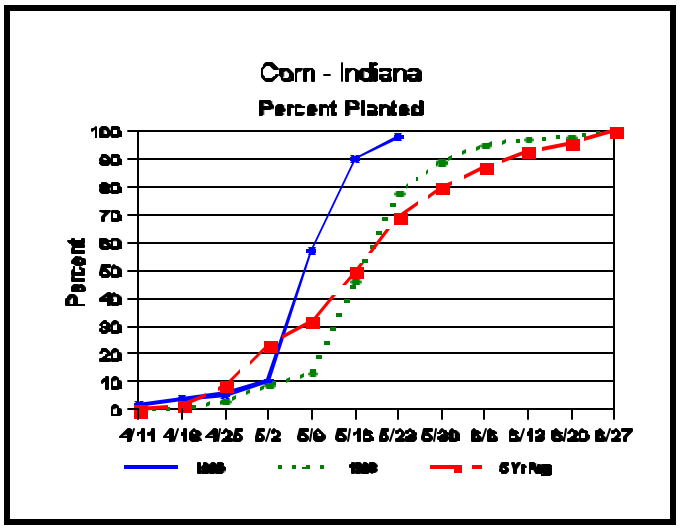
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	1	13	61	25
Winter Wheat	0	2	13	56	29
Winter Wheat	0	3	15	58	24
Pasture	0	2	18	65	15

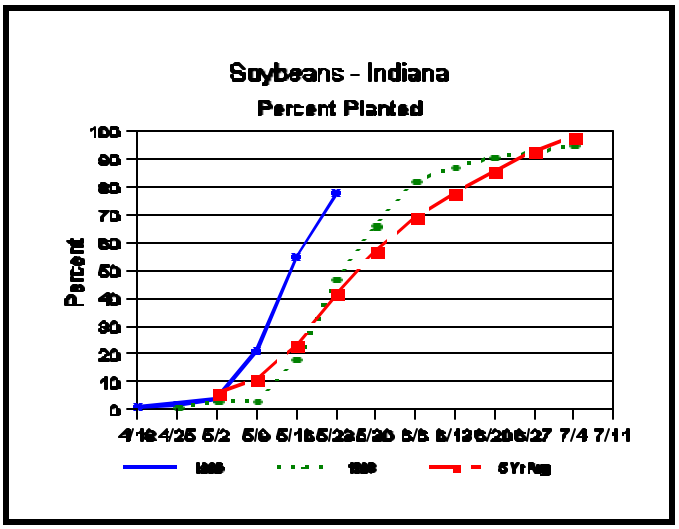
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	2
Short	11	14	14
Adequate	78	69	62
Surplus	10	16	22
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	11	12	6
Adequate	78	78	79
Surplus	10	9	14

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress





Stalk Borer Active in Some Corn Fields

- Control measures, if needed, should be timed with degree-day accumulations
- Scouting and management guidelines are given

We recently received calls concerning stalk borer in field corn. In each instance, the borers were causing the typical "dead heart" with the center leaves wilting. Unfortunately, once inside the plant, stalk borer are well protected from insecticides. Thus, managing stalk borer can be difficult. A method that could assist one in determining if the application of a control is needed is to follow degree-day accumulations to determine when scouting for larvae should occur. According to Iowa State University stalk borer developmental model, approximately 10 to 50 percent of the larvae will move out of the plants they initially infest after hatch once 1,400 to 1,700 degree days (base 41°F) have accumulated. Therefore, it is recommended that fields be scouted at 1,300 to 1,400 degree-days.

The initial hatch of the larvae occurs at about 600 degree days (base 41°F). Normally, the first host is the cover crop or grassy-type weeds located near the egg-laying site. However, they may also attack corn, if present. This is referred to as the initial infestation, and if on small corn, the corn is normally able to out grow the damage. As noted above, the later larval infestation, which occurs during the period from 1,400 to 1,700 degree-days, is when corn can be severely damaged by the larger larvae.

If stalk borers or their damage are observed in a cover crop or on grassy-type weeds in the field prior cover crop or weed destruction, or during early post weed control, an insecticide for the borers can be applied as part of a herbicide application (check labels for use and compatibility information). Additionally, if stalk borers are noted in the whorls or on the leaves of corn, a spot treatment with an insecticide in the infested area and adjacent areas should prevent the infestation from spreading. Remember that stalk borer will move from one plant to another, if their host is killed or if they kill and/or outgrow their present host plant. The borers are susceptible to insecticides when they are moving from plant to plant or are in the corn whorl. Ambush 2E*, Asana XL*, Lorsban 4E, Pounce 3.2EC*, and Warrior 1EC* should provide good control of the borers, if they come into contact with the insecticide (*= restricted use pesticide).

–Rich Edwards, John Obermeyer, and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday May 23, 1999

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	April 1, 1999 thru May 23, 1999				
								Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Bloomington	85	48	67	+4	1.24	4		8.15	+0.64	24	544	+116
Bluffton	85	48	67	+5	0.84	3	65	4.07	-2.24	19	446	+117
Butlerville	85	48	67	+3	0.93	4	70	6.90	-0.49	30	527	+58
Castleton	85	47	67	+4	1.44	4		6.85	-0.26	29	505	+126
Crawfordsville	84	44	66	+3	2.29	3	65	7.14	+0.03	24	400	+14
Dubois_Ag	85	47	67	+4	0.43	2	74	6.66	-1.12	25	572	+133
Evansville	85	50	68	+2	0.46	2		8.40	+0.79	20	661	+121
Farmland	87	46	66	+6	1.18	4	64	6.25	-0.08	28	432	+154
Fort_Wayne	88	46	67	+6	0.79	4		7.61	+1.70	24	424	+126
Freelandville	84	51	67	+4	1.30	3		7.63	-0.04	25	541	+106
Greenfield	85	47	67	+5	1.12	3		5.80	-1.49	29	491	+134
Indianapolis_AP	85	48	68	+4	1.64	3		7.47	+0.78	29	558	+160
Indianapolis_SE	84	46	67	+4	0.96	3		6.25	-0.86	31	472	+93
Logansport	82	50	66	+5	1.90	4		8.24	+2.01	25	437	+121
New_Castle	86	47	65	+4	0.74	3		6.36	-1.01	27	394	+108
Perrysville	85	47	68	+6	1.02	3	72	6.99	+0.13	26	499	+141
Plymouth	85	46	67	+5	0.57	4		9.04	+2.38	25	424	+85
Scottsburg	86	48	68	+3	0.66	2		5.36	-2.19	20	584	+145
Shoals	86	46	66	+2	1.55	3		7.31	-0.75	21	528	+107
South_Bend	85	44	66	+6	0.34	4		8.30	+2.14	24	438	+156
Tell_City	85	51	68	+2	0.48	2		8.22	-0.21	14	647	+149
Terre_Haute_Ag	88	49	69	+5	1.22	2	73	6.99	-0.29	20	616	+207
Tipton_Ag	86	47	65	+4	0.88	3	63	6.26	-0.50	23	391	+103
Valparaiso_Ag	83	46	65	+4	0.76	4		7.88	+1.10	24	414	+113
Vincennes_5NE	84	49	67	+3	1.06	4		8.64	+0.97	29	566	+131
Wanatah	85	39	64	+4	0.28	3	68	8.25	+1.76	25	314	+55
W_Lafayette_6NW	84	47	67	+6	1.45	2	70	9.00	+2.36	22	451	+129
Wheatfield	85	46	66	+6	0.48	2		9.13	+2.80	21	424	+144
Winamac	83	46	67	+5	0.51	3		9.45	+3.21	23	435	+114
Young_America	85	49	66	+4	0.95	4		6.02	-0.21	24	396	+80

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

Prices Won't Come Up Unless Weather Takes Yields Down

Corn and soybean prices are headed even lower if this summer's crop yields are normal. That assessment comes from Purdue Extension agricultural economist Chris Hurt after the USDA's first crack at estimating 1999 crop production this week.

He's quick to point out, however, that normal yields are far from guaranteed and that current futures market prices are providing some price premiums for this uncertainty.

So, what do we know about the 1999 growing season?

"First, planting is early in the central corn belt," Hurt says. "Second, excessive acreage of soybeans is expected, and sufficient corn acres will be planted to meet usage. Third, sub-soil moisture reserves are abundant in the corn belt with the exception of Ohio. Fourth, the La Nina has recently intensified bringing suggestions of both wider swings in weather patterns and a greater-than-normal odds of dry summer weather in the northwestern corn belt."

All these factors point to an average or better-than-average yield this fall, Hurt says. He adds that the main factor to influence yields is still unknown: summer weather. "That uncertainty means new crop prices are higher than they would be if yields were assured," he says. "How much higher, no one knows, but USDA estimates for 1999 soybeans are for an average yearly price of $4.35 per bushel. This means that harvest prices could plunge to near the low $4 range in Indiana and Ohio, while current new-crop pricing is in the range of $4.60 to $4.70 per bushel, or a weather premium of 50 to 60 cents."

For corn, the USDA estimates an average yearly price of $2 per bushel, or $1.80 at harvest. Current new-crop corn bids are in the $2.05 to $2.15 range. As a result, Hurt says, there's a current weather premium of 25 to 35 cents per bushel available in the corn market.

Hurt predicts the market will pay a weather premium into early summer until yield prospects are clearer. Futures-market participants often become more comfortable about yields around the first week of July. If the crop becomes more assured during July, much of the "weather premium" will likely be lost in July and early August.

This in combination with large supplies of old crop corn, and especially soybeans, that will be pushed into the summer market will likely further depress old crop prices.

"It appears most likely now that the market must see some actual yield reductions to maintain current prices. So, without weather restrictions, prices can be expected to move lower."

–Amy Raley, Ag Communication Service, Purdue University

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